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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/609,038	TSENG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Terry L. Englund	2816	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Interview (Aug 17, 2006) and Amdt (Aug 17, 2006).
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10, 12-25, and 27-39 (now renumbered as 1-9, 19-21, 10-18, and 22-37, respectively for printing purposes).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20060817.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

TIMOTHY P. CALLAHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to the applicants, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 7, line 4: changed "threshold potential" back to --threshold voltage--; and
line 5: changed "first voltage" to --first potential--.

Both changes to claim 7 relate to a minor oversight within the applicants' amended claim, wherein the term "voltage" was inadvertently changed within the phrase "first threshold voltage" on line 4, instead of within the phrase "first voltage" on line 5. Without the changes described above in the Examiner's Amendment, "the first voltage" and "the first threshold voltage" cited on respective lines 4-5 and 5-6 would be confusing since they would not clearly correspond to "a first potential" and "a first threshold potential" cited on lines 3 and 4. Therefore, the changes made by the Examiner's Amendment ensure consistent labeling is provided throughout the claim. [For example, it is noted that claim 19 cites "first potential" on lines 2-3 and 4, and "first threshold voltage" on both lines 4 and 5, wherein these limitations correspond to what was believed to be the applicants' intended changes within claim 7.]

RESPONSE TO AMENDMENT

The amendment submitted on Aug 17, 2006 was in response to the Final Office Action mailed on Aug 1st, and to the Examiner Interview on Aug 17th. This amendment was carefully reviewed and considered with the following results:

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Amended claims 2, 21-22, 27-28, 30, 32-33, 35, and 37-39 overcame the objections of claims 2, 21-22, 27-35, and 37-39 described on pages 3-4 of the previous Office Action.

Therefore, all of those claim objections have been withdrawn.

Amended claims 21-22 and 35 overcame their respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, which have now been withdrawn.

Although an attempt was made within amended claim 7 to overcome its rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, an apparent oversight changed the term “voltage” within the wrong phrase (i.e. the change was made within “first threshold voltage” on line 4 instead of within “first voltage” on line 5). However, since this oversight was addressed/corrected by the Examiner’s Amendment described above, the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 112 has also been withdrawn.

Amended claims 35-39 overcame all the prior art rejections described in the previous Office Action. Therefore, the following rejections have been withdrawn: 1) claims 37-39 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), with respect to Smith et al.; 2) claim 36 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)/103(a), with a respect to Smith et al.; and 3) claims 35-39 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), with respect to Slamowitz et al./Smith et al. Neither of these references clearly shows or discloses a node having first/second potentials corresponding to power-down/sleep modes of the Schmitt trigger circuit as now recited within each of independent claims 35-39.

Therefore, there is no known objection or rejection remaining within the present application.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

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None of the prior art references reviewed and considered shows or discloses the power-on reset circuit, or a method for providing a reset signal, as recited within their respective independent claims 1, 10, 23, 27-28, 30, 32-33, and 35-39. More specifically, none of the references clearly shows or discloses a power-on reset circuit, with a Schmitt trigger circuit and voltage divider, wherein: 1) a threshold-enhancement node has a first or second voltage when the Schmitt trigger circuit is in its corresponding power-down or sleep mode as recited within claim 1 (upon which claims 2-9, and 14-22 depend); 2) resistors of the voltage divider are connected directly to the Schmitt trigger circuit, and the power-on reset circuit also has: a) the compensate circuit as recited within claims 27 and 30 (upon which claim 31 depends), b) the current source transistor as recited within claim 28 (upon which claim 29 depends), c) the reset signal node's potential with respect to the Schmitt trigger circuit, sleep mode, voltages, and ground potential as recited within claim 32, or d) the reset signal node's first/second voltage peaks with respect to the Schmitt trigger circuit's entering/exiting of the power-down mode as recited within claim 33 (upon which claim 34 depends); or 3) a node had a first or second potential corresponding to a power-down or sleep mode of the Schmitt trigger circuit as recited within each of claims 35-39. Also, none of the references clearly shows or discloses a method for providing a reset signal that includes the specific relationships between the reset signal, reference/first/second potentials, sleep mode, and the power-up/power-down states as recited within each of independent method claims 10 (upon which claims 12-13 depend) and 23 (upon which claims 24-25 depend). Since there is no strong motivation to modify or combine any prior art reference(s) to ensure all of the limitations recited within any one of the independent claims are met, the claims are deemed patentably distinct over the prior art of record.

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Claims 1-10, 12-25, and 27-39 are allowed, and have been renumbered as claims 1-9, 19-21, 10-18, and 22-37, respectively. The renumbering takes into account the cancellation of claims 11 and 26, and also regroups related claims closer together. For example, claims 14-21 all depend on independent apparatus claim 1, wherein claims 12-13 depend on independent method claim 10.

Any comments considered necessary by the applicants must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Callahan, can be reached on (571) 272-1740.

The new central official fax number is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1562.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Terry L. Englund

31 August 2006